ISO 639-3 Registration Authority

Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code

Change Request Number: 2021-039 (completed by Registration authority)
Date: 30 August 2021
Primary Person submitting request: Maryam Mesgarkhoyi, PhD
Affiliation: The Academy of Persian Language & Literature
E-mail address: m.mesgar62 at gmail dot com
Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:
Prof. Mohammad Dabir-Moghaddam, Vice Chancellor for Research, The Academy of Persian Language & Literature, mdbirmoghaddam at gmail dot com
Mohammad Reza Razavi, PhD, faculty member of The Academy of Persian Language & Literature, razavi_mr at yahoo dot com
Postal address for primary contact person for this request (in general, email correspondence will be used):
The Academy of Persian Language & Literature, Academies Complex, After Metro Station, Haghani Expressway, Tehran-Iran
Postal Code: 1538633211
P.O.Box: 15875-6394

PLEASE NOTE: This completed form will become part of the public record of this change request and the history of the ISO 639-3 code set and will be posted on the ISO 639-3 website.

Types of change requests

This form is to be used in requesting changes (whether creation, modification, or deletion) to elements of the ISO 639 Codes for the representation of names of languages — Part 3: Alpha-3 code for comprehensive coverage of languages. The types of changes that are possible are to 1) modify the reference information for an existing code element, 2) propose a new macrolanguage or modify a macrolanguage group; 3) retire a code element from use, including merging its scope of denotation into that of another code element, 4) split an existing code element into two or more new language code elements, or 5) create a new code element for a previously unidentified language variety. Fill out section 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 below as appropriate, and the final section documenting the sources of your information. The process by which a change is received, reviewed and adopted is summarized on the final page of this form.

Type of change proposed (check one):
1. [ ] Modify reference information for an existing language code element
2. [ ] Propose a new macrolanguage or modify a macrolanguage group
3. [ ] Retire a language code element from use (duplicate or non-existent)
4. [ ] Expand the denotation of a code element through the merging one or more language code elements into it (retiring the latter group of code elements)
5. [ ] Split a language code element into two or more new code elements (include here a request for a new code element for a divergent dialect of a major language)
6. [ ] Create a code element for a previously unidentified language.

For proposing a change to an existing code element, please identify:

Affected ISO 639-3 identifier: ______
Associated reference name: ____________________________________
1. Modify an existing language code element

(a) What are you proposing to change:
   [ ] Language reference name; generally this is changed only if it is erroneous;
      if usage is shifting to a new preferred form, the new form may be added (next box)
   [ ] Language additional names
   [ ] Language type (living, extinct, historical, etc.)
   [ ] Language scope (individual language or macrolanguage)

(b) What new value(s) do you propose: ________________________________

(c) Rationale for change (what evidence do you have that the earlier name was erroneous or offensive, or that the new name should also be included):

2. Propose a new macrolanguage or modify a macrolanguage group

(a) For an existing Macrolanguage, what change to its individual language membership do you propose:

   (b) Rationale for change:

For a new Macrolanguage proposal, please also complete the form “Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3” (file name “ISO639-3_NewCodeRequest.doc” or “ISO639-3_NewCodeRequestForm.rtf”), which must also be submitted to fully document the intended meaning for the new macrolanguage.

3. Retire a language code element from use

(a) Reason for change:
   [ ] There is no evidence that the language exists.
   [ ] This is equivalent to another ISO 639-3 language.

(b) If equivalent with another code element, with which ISO 639-3 code element (identifier and name) is it equivalent: ________________________________

(c) Rationale for change:

4. Expand the denotation of a code element through merging of one or more code elements

(a) List the languages (identifier and name) to be merged into this code element and retired from use:

(b) Rationale for change
5. Split a language code element into two or more code elements

(a) List the languages into which this code element should be split, or the major language and the divergent variety (or varieties) for which a new code element is being requested:

By the language identification criteria set forth in ISO 639-3, the simple fact of distinct identities is not enough to assign separate identifiers. The criteria are defined in the standard as follows:

For this part of ISO 639, judgments regarding when two varieties are considered to be the same or different languages are based on a number of factors, including linguistic similarity, intelligibility, a common literature (traditional or written), a common writing system, the views of users concerning the relationship between language and identity, and other factors. The following basic criteria are followed:

- Two related varieties are normally considered varieties of the same language if users of each variety have inherent understanding of the other variety (that is, can understand based on knowledge of their own variety without needing to learn the other variety) at a functional level.

- Where intelligibility between varieties is marginal, the existence of a common literature or of a common ethnolinguistic identity with a central variety that both understand can be strong indicators that they should nevertheless be considered varieties of the same language.

- Where there is enough intelligibility between varieties to enable communication, the existence of well-established distinct ethnolinguistic identities can be a strong indicator that they should nevertheless be considered to be different languages.

(b) Referring to the criteria given above, give the rationale for splitting the existing code element into two or more languages, or for requesting a separate identifier for the divergent variety:

(c) Does the existing language code element represent a major language in which there already exists a significant body of literature and research? Are there contexts in which all the proposed separate languages may still be considered the same language—as in having a common linguistic identity, a shared (or undistinguished) body of literature, a written form in common, etc.? Please comment.

In order to complete the change request, the form “Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3” (file name “ISO639-3_NewCodeRequestForm.doc” or “ISO639-3_NewCodeRequestForm.rtf”) must also be submitted for each new identifier that is to be created. That step can be deferred until this form has been processed by the ISO 639-3 registrar, provided that sufficient information on the rationale is given in (b) above.
In the case of a minority language that has been considered in some contexts to be a dialect of a major language, yet is divergent enough to be unintelligible to speakers of the standard variety of the major language, it may be more beneficial for the users of the ISO 639-3 and 639-2 code sets to create a new code element for the divergent language variety without splitting the existing code element of the major language. The ISO 639-3 Registration Authority may make this determination when considering a request involving a major language and a highly distinct “dialect.” If such a course is followed, the rationale for the decision will be published in a comment by the Registration Authority on approval of the requested addition for the divergent variety.

6. Create a new language code element

(a) Name of missing language: Delvari
(b) State the case that this language is not the same as or has not been included within any language that already has an identifier in ISO 639-3: Delvari is a language with different dialects in the area including Tangsiri or Tangestani. Iranian researchers have studied many aspects of this language e.g. phonology, verb system, etc. Also it has been the focus of an influential typological study in recent years (see Dabir-Moghaddam (2013)).

The only historical commonality that Persian and Delvari have is that they belong to the Southwestern branch of Iranian languages. But beyond that, we like to let you know that Modern Persian is a uniformly Nominative-Accusative language typologically whereas Delvari is typological a split-ergative language. Delvari is Nominative-Accusative in sentences containing PRESENT tense verbs but in sentences containing PAST tenses (simple past, present perfect, and past perfect/pluperfect) it is Ergative-Absolutive and sometimes TRIPARTITE. To visualize the morphosyntactic typology of Delvari it suffices to mention that typologically it is like Middle Persian which used to be spoken between around 3nd century AD and 7th century AD. The children who speak Delvari as their native language and are monolingual will not be able to communicate with monolingual Persian speakers, so Persian and Delvari are totally mutually unintelligible (Please see Dabir-Moghaddam, M. (2013). Typology of Iranian Languages, vol. 1. Tehran: Samt, pp 908-962

In order to complete the change request, the form “Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3” (file name “ISO639-3_NewCodeRequest.doc” or “ISO639-3_NewCodeRequestForm.rtf”) must also be submitted to more fully document the new language.

Sources of information

Please use whichever of the points below are relevant in order to document the sources on which you have based the above proposal.

(a) First-hand knowledge. Describe:
(b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

Talking to a native speaker and collecting some information. He was a 40 year old man, working in a bank in Delvar town.

(c) Knowledge from published sources (please give complete bibliographical references):

Anonby, Eric, Mortaza Taheri-Ardali and Amos Hayes. Atlas of the Languages of Iran. Published online 12 March 2019
https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/iranian-studies/article/atlas-of-the-languages-of-iran-ali-a-research-overview/FCD44FDB3456E30BE247910848D83474


Pourebrahim, Shirin and Mohammadmehdi Vahedi Langeroodi. (2013) "A Description and Analysis of the Verb System in Delvari Dialect". The Journal of Iranian Languages and Dialects, 2, 107-123.
